

FAX COVER SHEET**DATE:** JANUARY 28, 2002**TO:** JOHN ASHCROFT (202)-307-1454
US ATTORNEY GENERAL**FROM:** T. Clifford Smith**PHONE:** 513-385-8577**FAX:** 513-385-4491

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Comments:

Important view on the Microsoft case.

Thanks
T. Clifford Smith

**T. Clifford Smith
6480 Dry Ridge Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45252-1748**

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530-001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

It is my opinion that the antitrust suit against Microsoft should never have existed in the first place. However, since it did, I am glad to see that there has been a settlement to the case. It took over three years for the Justice Department to finally settle the case with Microsoft, and I fully support that settlement.

As I'm sure you're aware Microsoft has never harmed anyone; instead it was a large part of the reason for the success of the economy in the 1990's that has been unrivaled throughout history. Thousands upon thousands of people who are employed owe their jobs to Microsoft, as do students who are attending college under scholarships that Microsoft created. Let us not forget all of the charities that Microsoft has donated millions of dollars to.

Microsoft has agreed to several changes in the way they conduct their business that will promote greater competition to Microsoft software programs. Microsoft agreed to make it easier for computer makers, software developers and consumers to reconfigure Windows at any time. Since Microsoft has agreed to such significant demands, its competitors should look favorably on this settlement.

The antitrust suit against Microsoft should never have been brought in the first place, but since it was, I am happy to see that a settlement has been reached.

Sincerely yours,



T. Clifford Smith